



Reading at Colwich 2022-2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

This year one of our key priorities for school development is to improve the progress children make in phonics and reading. Last year, our Year 6 cohort left us performing above the national average at expected standard, but we feel that following Covid the development of reading skills and a love of reading is still a priority for us. Throughout the year we will be taking on various initiatives and activities in school to support and broaden your children’s reading journey.

We began the journey last year in Key Stage 2, thanks to the fundraising efforts of the PTFA, by investing in a new reading scheme for KS2. We chose the Collins’ ‘Big Cat’ scheme as it offered a diverse and well-presented range of fiction, non-fiction and poetry books. This year we continue the journey, and as a Trust, have invested in ‘Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised’ as our systematic, synthetic phonics programme to teach early reading and spelling. This aligns with our KS2 reading scheme and includes a new reading scheme for EYFS/KS1. We know that the impact upon reading at Colwich will be a positive one, improving fluency, comprehension and a love of reading.

So how can you help?

Parental support is extremely valued at Colwich and we recognise the impact it has on children’s progress and attainment in reading. Although your child will be taught to read at school, you can have a huge impact on their reading journey by continuing their practice at home.

EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2	Year 3 to Year 6
<p><i>There are two types of reading books that your child will bring home:</i></p> <p>A phonetically decodable reading book that has been carefully matched to your child’s phonic stage. Children should be able to read this book fluently and independently. Please don’t worry that it is too easy – your child needs to develop fluency and confidence through repeated practice. If they can’t read a word, read it to them and move on. Celebrate their success and talk about the book after reading.</p> <p>A sharing book that your child has chosen from our class library. This is not a book your child will be able to read alone, you will read it and enjoy it together. We call this reading for pleasure and it is crucial to develop a lifelong love of reading. Discuss the pictures, enjoy the story or facts, make predictions about what might happen next and enjoy using different expression and voices for different characters. This book may be fiction, non-fiction or poetry. The main thing is to have fun reading!</p> <p>*Some of Year 2 may have progressed past phonetically decodable books.</p>	<p><i>There are two types of reading books that your child will bring home:</i></p> <p>A Big Cat book (at an appropriate stage for their ability) that they will be encouraged to read and change on a regular basis.</p> <p>The second text can be chosen from the classroom or from the library. This could be: novels, comics, newspapers, information texts etc. Free choice literature will be an essential part of the children’s learning journey and will be actively encouraged and celebrated within school.</p> <p>Please join in with your children’s reading by discussing the texts, talking about the meaning of new vocabulary, making predictions, developing expression and asking children to evidence their thoughts and opinions about what they are reading with examples from the text.</p>
<p>It is undeniable that regular, supervised practice of reading at home helps children to consolidate reading skills and to gain in confidence, enthusiasm and progress. Therefore, we ask for your invaluable support when your child brings home his/her reading books. We ask that you listen to your child read in EYFS and Key Stage 1 daily, where possible, and in Key Stage 2 at least twice a week and record this in their reading diary. This opportunity to share books is just as valuable to a Year 6 child as it is to a Reception child.</p>	

We take pride in our school and the resources we provide for the children. We endeavour to provide high quality resources and as such ask that if a book is damaged or missing, a payment of £5 is made to replace it.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you sincerely for your continued support and say that we very much look forward to working with you in the year ahead.